Export of wheat

†458. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries to which Food Corporation of India has exported wheat during the last three years together with the quantity of wheat exported to each country and the price at which it was exported; and

(b) the details of price fixed by Food Corporation of India for export of wheat during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) Food Corporation of India (FCI) does not undertake exports of foodgrains. However, wheat is made available to Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), State Agencies and exporters from the Central Pool for export. During the last two and a half years about 144.63 lakh MTs of wheat have been lifted for export to 32 countries.

Wheat is offered to exporters at Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) prices, which are fixed by the Government from time to time based on crop year, variety and location of stocks. Post Delivery and other WTO Compatible expenses are allowed to them.

Transfer of funds to NLCPR

459. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to refer to answers to the Starred Question 678 dated 13th May, 2002, Unstarred Question 979 dated 27th February, 2003 and Unstarred Question 2056 dated 11th March, 2003 respectively given in the Rajya Sabha and state:

(a) the total amount of funds transferred to Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR), amount released to the States of North Eastern Region as well as total amount and status of the unreleased amount, year-wise till March, 2003;

(b) whether separate budgetary provision is required for utilizing

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

this already transferred amount by the Department of Development of North Eastern Region; and

(c) if so, the system of fund transfer and authorization given to the Department of Development of North Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The total amount accrued to the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) during the financial years 1998-1999 to 2001-2002 was Rs. 5806.07 crores. After deducting the expenditure incurred by the North Eastern Council (NEC) and amount released from the NLCPR during the same period, a sum of Rs. 2853.97 crores was available in the NLCPR account as on 31.03.2002. An inter-ministerial consultation process has since been initiated to make an assessment regarding amount to be contributed by various Central Ministries/ Departments to the NLCPR during 2002-03. During 2002-03, Rs. 550.00 crores were released from the NLCPR for various projects in the North East. The project-wise/year-wise details of release of funds from the NLCPR are available on the website: www.northeast.nic.in

(b) Yes, Sir. Separate budgetary provision is required for utilizing the amount accrued to the NLCPR.

(c) Each Ministry/Department, unless specifically exempted from making a provision, is required to earmark 10% of its gross budgetary support for the Central Plan, for projects/schemes in the North Eastern Region. In addition, from the amounts surrendered to NLCPR, funds are made available in the budget of the DONER, in a phased manner, for projects/schemes in the Region. Hence, in addition to each non-exempted Ministry/Department spending in the North East Region, DONER also incurs expenditure in that Region.

Divesting stake in disinvested companies

460. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to divest its residual